Oct. 18, 1955 G. M. J. FOWLER ET AL 2,720,653

MATERNITY CORSET

Filed May 3, 1954

Fig. 1.

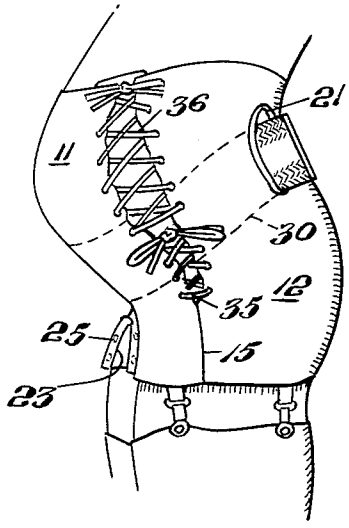


Fig. 6.

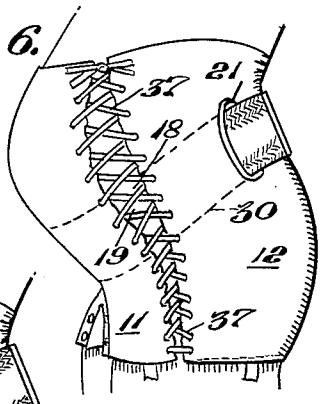


Fig. 5.

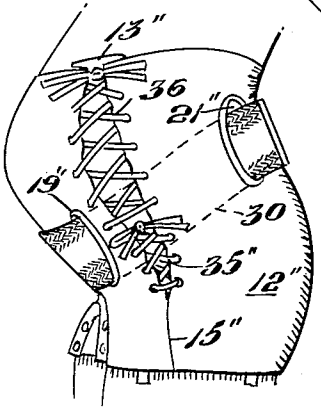


Fig. 4.

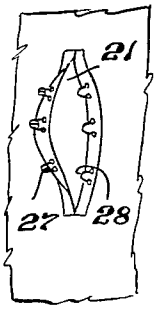
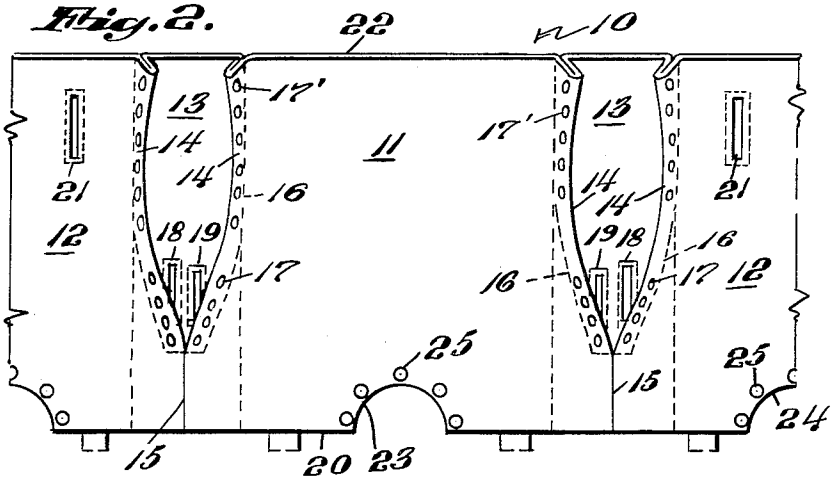


Fig. 2.



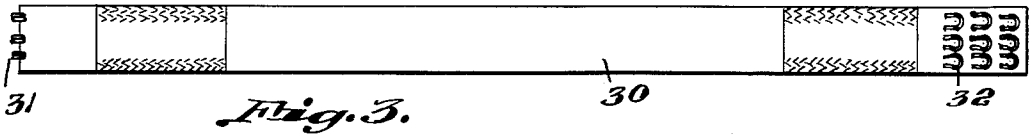
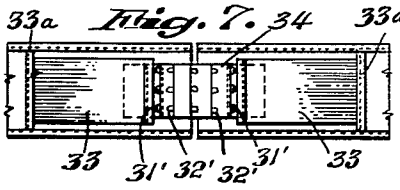


Fig. 3.

Fig. 7.



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MATERNITY CORSET

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8 Claims. (Cl. 2—41)

This invention relates to a maternity corset and more particularly to an abdominal support belt in combination with a corset which is adapted to support the lower abdomen of the wearer.

An object of the present invention is to provide a maternity garment with an adjustable belt strap which will be disposed at an angle so as to lift the fetus as well as push it to the rear, thereby relieving pressure on the lower abdomen.

Another object of the invention is the provision of guiding means in the form of slits in the garment through which the belt may pass so as to assume the proper angle and to prevent vertical slipping thereof.

A further object of the invention is the provision of two sets of side laces which may be separately adjusted as desired during the various stages of pregnancy.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a side view of the garment being worn;

Figure 2 is a developed plan view of the garment;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the belt strap;

Figure 4 is an enlarged plan view of one of the slits in the garment;

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 1 of a modification of the garment; and

Figure 6 is a similar view of still another modification of the garment.

Figure 7 is a plan view of the fastening portion of a modified belt strap.

In proceeding with our invention, we form a generally circular garment of a fabric that is adapted to stretch in both directions through the use of a covered rubber yarn in both the warp and the weft. Other materials exhibiting stretch in two directions may, of course, be substituted. Darts are formed at either side of the garment with eyelets at the edge thereof so as to allow for circular adjustability of the garment. Slits are cut in the garment at the dart sections and also at the rear of the garment so as to form two pairs of slits, the pair at the rear being higher than the pair at the side. An abdominal strap is provided within the garment and is supported therein by passing through said slits. A removable crotch is preferably detachably secured to the garment, and garters may be attached to the lower portion of the garment in accordance with conventional practice.

Referring to the embodiment shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 in the drawing, **10** generally designates the garment which is provided with a front panel **11** and rear panel **12**. These two panels are defined by dart sections **13** where pleats **14** have been taken. The pleats are formed by stitching **16** and are brought together at the lower edge of the garment as at **15** where they are securely stitched to form a flat surface. The pleat may also be bound with bias tape for reinforcement and eyelets **17, 17′** placed therein. As seen in Figure 1, two sets of

laces **35, 36** are adapted to be inserted through eyelets **17, 17′**, respectively, to adjust the width of the pleated sections **13**. However, if desired, one set of laces **37** (Figure 6) may be used if maximum adjustability is not desired. A portion is cut in the front panel **11** to provide a recess **23** in a generally arched shape, and a corresponding arch-shaped recess **24** is cut in the rear panel **12**. Each of these arched recesses **23** and **24** is provided with suitable grippers or eyelets **25** on both front and back to secure a removable crotch strip. Within the pleated portion **14** a pair of slits **18** and **19** are cut and are bound with bias tape, the slits **19** being slightly closer to the bottom edge **20** of the garment than the slits **18**. A second pair of slits **21** is cut in the rear panel **12** and bound with bias tape as are the previous slits, the location of these slits **21** being near the top edge **22** of the garment and spaced from each other a substantial distance. If desired, the slits may be provided with hook and eye arrangements **27, 28** as shown in Figure 4 to facilitate the closing thereof should the garment be worn without the belt strap **30** and are shaped to allow the belt strap to pass therethrough.

The belt strap **30**, as shown in Figure 3, is preferably formed from an elastic material and is provided with a set of hooks **31** at one end and a plurality of sets of eyelets **32** at the other end thereof so as to give some latitude for adjustment. The center section of the belt strap is preferably covered with a cushiony material such as foam rubber, and to give longitudinal rigidity to the belt, stays are affixed thereto running lengthwise of the belt. The entire center section may then be covered with a fabric that has relatively little stretch so as to give further rigidity to the center section. To provide additional adjustability to the belt, the ends may be formed as shown in Figure 7, in which two separate elastic sections **33** are stitched as at **33*a*** to the body of the belt. Hooks **31′** are affixed to the ends of the sections **33**, which cooperate with eyes **32′** fastened to a separate strip **34**. By adjusting the length of this strip **34** and providing a plurality of sets of eyes **32′**, a wide range of adjustability may be effected.

As will be seen by referring to the embodiment of Figure 1, the belt is adapted to be passed through the slits **18, 19**, and **21** so that the belt is inside the front panel **11** of the garment, passing out of the slit **19** and into the slit **18**, and thence out of the slits **21**, fastening on the outside of the rear panel of the garment by means of the hook and eye arrangements **31, 32**. With this arrangement the belt assumes an angle in the range of approximately 30 to 45 degrees with respect to the top and bottom edges of the garment so as to result in an upward lifting force as well as a compressive force on the lower abdomen, the weight being supported by the hip structure and the entire garment giving support at the small of the back of the wearer.

The garment is applied to the body of the wearer by stepping into it with the strap **30** properly inserted through the slits **19, 18**, and **21** and the lacings **35, 36** loosened. It may then be pulled up to the abdominal region and the individual laces **35, 36** tightened for comfort. The belt **30** is then fastened together with the appropriate tension by connecting the hooks **31** with the proper set of eyes **32**. If abdominal support is not desired, the belt strap **30** may be omitted and the garment worn as a usual corset.

In Figure 5 we have shown a modification of our garment wherein only two slits **19′** and **21′** have been provided, like parts being designated with the same reference numerals and a double prime. In this showing the belt strap **30** passes on the exterior of the garment between slits **19″**, which in some cases may be desirable to eliminate the bulk within the garment. In all other re-

spects the garment is identical and has the darts 13" with two sets of adjusting laces 35", 36".

We claim:

1. A maternity corset including front and back portions and a belt, first means on said back portion providing openings through which said belt may slidably pass, said first means positioned adjacent the top edge of said back portion, second means disposed adjacent the juncture of said front and back portions at a position in the lower portion of said front portion through which said belt may slidably pass, said first and second means being related to each other so that the belt slopes downwardly from the small of the back of the wearer toward the front portion of the corset to engage the lower abdomen of the wearer at an angle thereto, the ends of the belt being fastened together.

2. A maternity corset including front and back portions, a first pair of vertically disposed slits in the back portion thereof, said first pair of slits laterally spaced from each other adjacent the top edge of said back portion to be adjacent the small of the back of the wearer, a second pair of slits each disposed at a position in the lower portion of said front portion and at a side of said corset adjacent the juncture of said front and back portions, a belt having a width approximately equal to the length of said pairs of slits adapted to pass through said slits and be held therein, said pairs of slits being related to each other so that the belt slopes downwardly toward the front portion of the corset to engage the lower abdomen of the wearer at an angle thereto, the ends of said belt fastening together across the rear panel at the small of the back of the wearer.

3. A corset as in claim 2 wherein said belt passes from the exterior of said corset in through said first pair of slits and out said second pair.

4. A corset as in claim 2 wherein a third pair of slits are disposed adjacent said second pair and towards said front portion, said third pair located slightly below said second pair to complement an imaginary line drawn through said first and second pair of slits, said belt passing in said first pair and out of said second pair of slits and thence into said third pair of slits to lie on the interior of said corset at the front portion thereof.

5. A corset as in claim 2 wherein a dart is formed between said front and back portions, the edges of said dart having pleats with means to adjustably secure said pleats together.

6. A maternity corset including front and back portions, a first pair of vertically disposed slits in the back portion thereof, said first pair of slits laterally spaced from each other adjacent the top edge of said back portion, at least a second pair of slits each disposed at a position lower than said first pair of slits and at the side of said corset adjacent the juncture of said front and back portions, darts formed between said front and back portions, the edges of said darts having means affixed thereto to adjust the separation of said edges.

7. A corset as in claim 6 wherein a belt passes into said first pair of slits and out said second pair of slits, said belt being adjustably fastened across the rear panel to dispose the belt on a downward slope toward the front portion of said corset to engage the lower abdomen of the wearer.

8. A corset as in claim 6 wherein the edges of said darts are provided with eyelets and two separate lacings arranged one above the other pass through said eyelets.

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